

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Security Message for U.S. Citizens

Cocktail Advisory (January 15, 2015)

The following information has been passed to U.S. Embassy employees, given a recent rise in the level of incidents in the Diplomatic Enclave (Gulshan, Baridhara and Banani). The use of explosive "cocktails" has particularly increased in the area around DIT2 Circle in Gulshan 2.

Political, extremist and other factions in Bangladesh commonly use explosive devices to startle and intimidate rivals or bystanders during hartals and protests. These improvised devices contain a mixture of low-explosives that detonate when thrown on the ground. They are referred to in Bangladesh as "cocktails." Cocktails are hand-thrown explosive devices similar to "flash-bang" grenades, and are not the same as the incendiary devices popularly known as "Molotov cocktails" (which are called "petrol bombs" in Bangladesh).

The casing of most cocktails is comprised of small tin cans, similar in circumference and slightly shorter than a soda can; most are wrapped in red electrical tape. Other shapes and colors may also be encountered. Share this notice with family members and ensure children know how to recognize and avoid unexploded cocktails.

Cocktails produce a loud noise and bright flash of light, but are generally not meant to harm and usually do not result in injury to persons more than five feet from the blast. However, burns, other injuries and even death can occur to persons in contact with or close proximity to a cocktail blast.

Although historically less common, some cocktails may contain small pieces of glass or metal meant to be propelled by the blast for the purpose of injuring victims at distances up to fifty feet. These cocktails can be lethal.

If you see a cocktail thrown, turn away and leave the area quickly. Never attempt to catch, bat away or kick a cocktail. If you encounter a cocktail on the ground, do not touch it; move away immediately. If you are in a vehicle, always ensure your windows are up. If driving, do not let the distraction of the loud noise and flash cause you to lose control of the vehicle; remain calm and look out for pedestrians and other vehicles reacting in an unpredictable manner. Expect additional blasts.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bangladesh enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at www.Travel.State.Gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Bangladesh. For additional information, refer to our Travelers Checklist.

You can visit the U.S. Embassy Dhaka web page (dhaka.usembassy.gov) for up-to-date information on travel restrictions or call the Embassy directly at (88) (02) 5566-2000. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from

other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

The U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212 and is open Sunday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (88) (02) 5566-2000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is (88) (02) 5566-2000 and press “0” and ask for the duty officer.

American Citizens Services
U.S. Embassy
Dhaka, Bangladesh